

Marion, Washington County, Maine, December 1, 1908, by Mr. G. H. Graham, and is now owned by Mr. Holway who has kindly submitted it to me for positive identification.

It is rather interesting to note in this connection that many birds of the southern regions have been taken from time to time in or near this section of Washington County. The late George A. Boardman personally secured several rarities in this general region, and subsequently others have taken equally unexpected species. The statements of taxidermists are naturally open to suspicion where pecuniary matters are concerned, so it is always desirable to have confirmatory evidence where obtainable. The evidence in the present case seems entirely satisfactory.—ORA WILLIS KNIGHT, *Bangor, Me.*

#### **The Bobolink at Philadelphia, Pa., and Vicinity in Summer and Autumn.**

—The Bobolink is a common transient in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and is enumerated as such in Stone's 'Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey' (page 31) among the birds found within ten miles of this city, but it appears that it has been observed here during the summer months by different observers since the publication of his book in 1894 on enough occasions to warrant a suspicion that it is perhaps a rare breeder. I have myself seen it here in summer on three different occasions, but under conditions that left room for doubt as to whether they were breeding.

At Bridesburg, Philadelphia, a locality along the Delaware River, five miles north of the city, on June 5, 1902, I observed a female and two males, and on June 1, 1906, a male; on June 8, 1907, Mr. Ernest A. Butler and I saw an abnormally colored male at Tincum, Delaware County, Pa., a locality also along the Delaware River, and about six miles south of Philadelphia. Both of these localities are low, swampy meadow and marsh lands, and are localities which it is doubtful the Bobolink would select as breeding grounds.

The behavior of the birds did not appear to me to be that of nesting birds. They all acted like late migrants, and the Tincum bird evidently was one, as the spring of 1907 was very backward and kept some transients lingering here until June. The two males of the three birds observed on June 5, 1902, I know for a certainty were killed by illegal gunners who roam these meadows throughout the year, but what became of the female was not ascertained, but it never was afterward seen. The male seen June 1, 1906, was also probably a late migrant as it was never again seen, or perhaps it, too, was killed by some "man with a gun."

None of these birds were wounded individuals left behind in the migration, as was determined by chasing and making them perform long flights. The abnormal bird was chased by a gunner and unlike the other males it was not heard to sing.

On page 105 of his excellent book, Stone says: "The Bobolink is a regular breeder in the northern parts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey,

but it is of irregular distribution." This is a proven fact and as a consequence the Bobolink, or Reedbird as it is called here in fall, is one of the first transients to arrive in late summer or fall from its breeding grounds. The following dates constitute my records of its arrival on the Delaware River marshes in the vicinity of Philadelphia, where it is then an exceedingly abundant bird:—

1897, August 16 — one.	1904, August 13 — several.
1898, July 18 — several.	1905, August 4 — one.
1899, August 14 — many.	1906, July 24 — several.
1900, August 6 — many.	1907, July 28 — one.
1901, August 28 — several.	1908, August 3 — one.
1902, July 21 — seven.	1909, August 5 — one.
1903, August 10 — one.	

The remarks following the dates refer to the number of individuals seen, and it will be noted that the earlier birds generally arrive singly or in small numbers — the bulk never put in an appearance until well along in August.

The table shows several unusually early records of arrivals, and these contrast strongly with the August 25 record of arrivals given in Stone's book (page 105). Warren also gives this time as the date of their appearance, for he says in his 'Birds of Pennsylvania,' 2d revised edition, page 207: "After the breeding season the Reedbird (both sexes), about the middle of August, again makes their appearance in our meadows and grain fields at this time . . ." My experience is that they arrive first on the wild rice (called reed here, hence the name Reedbird) marshes and my records bear me out, as it is in them I have always seen my first fall arrivals.

So far as I have been able to decide, the first birds to put in an appearance are always the adults, and they come in all kinds of moulting plumages, adult males not uncommonly being seen, and albinos are by no means rare. One of the latter, taken on the Delaware River marshes above Philadelphia, is mounted and in the possession of a local taxidermist. It is a fine bird, of a light straw or pale canary yellow all over, the edgings of the wing and tail feathers white, the feet and bill flesh-colored; the eyes were of the normal color.

On the Delaware River marshes the Reedbird or "Reedie," as it is more familiarly called, is a common game bird, and may be killed from September 1 to January in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and they are annually killed (literally slaughtered) in immense numbers and sold in city markets. They bring from 75 cents to \$2.00 per dozen, prices varying according to supply, demand, and quality and condition of the birds. The unscrupulous dealer often imposes upon the ignorant buyer and sells him English Sparrows for Reedbirds, and when plucked these birds resemble the succulent Reedbirds in appearance but not in taste when cooked. In this condition they are often bought by game dealers and, as I have said, sold by

them as Reedbirds. Red-winged Blackbirds, plucked, are also palmed off to the ignorant as Reedbirds.

By October 1 the dead marshes are almost forsaken by the Reedbirds; my latest records of their occurrence are October 7, 1907, and October 14, 1908, when I saw several on both occasions at Bridesburg, but I have the assurance of reliable gunners that they have taken them as late as October 25, and wounded individuals have been killed as late as November. Whether the adult or young birds are the last to depart I cannot state from experience.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Harrowgate, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Regular Summer Crossbills at Ithaca, N. Y.**—These erratic nomads have so long enjoyed a reputation for irregularity in their movements, both winter and summer, that the regularity of their appearance at Ithaca, especially during the past four years, seems worthy of note. In fact they have come to be predicted as accurately as many of our spring migrants.

In all we have about 40 records for the species. Of these, none have been made during the fall migration, but six during the winter, five during the spring, from the middle of March to the first of May, and thirty during the month of June.

A more detailed study of our data will better reveal the regularity of their appearance. The first record was made June 16, 1889, by Mr. L. A. Fuertes who with us in recent years has noticed the regularity of their occurrence. In 1900 and 1904 records were also made in June. In 1906 a flock of 10 were seen on the Cornell Campus from June 21 to 24. In 1907 they were first seen on May 28 when twelve were recorded, and they continued common until June 24. In 1908 they were daily noted from June 10 to 17. In 1909 a flock of fifteen appeared June 6 and the species remained until June 14. Thus, for four successive years they have returned in approximately the same season of the year and the appearance is apparently regular.—ALBERT H. WRIGHT, ARTHUR A. ALLEN, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

**Breeding of the White-throated Sparrow in Yates County, N. Y.**—Owing to the fact that the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) has never been reported as breeding in western New York, it gives me pleasure to record the nesting of this species in the famous bird haunt, Potter Swamp, in the northern portion of Yates County.

On the evening of May 31, 1909, as I was leaving the edge of this swampy forest I was surprised to hear the sweet clear whistle of a White-throated Sparrow coming from a two-acre clearing at the edge of the woods. Again on June 6, while photographing a nest of the Cerulean Warbler "in situ" near this clearing I heard the White-throat again, and as the bird sang so constantly and remained in a restricted area I felt convinced that it was singing to its mate on the nest. Therefore upon descending from the Cerulean's nest I began a search for the nest that was only successful after over